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LIMDIS, JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT:PREPARATIONS FOR U.S.-JORDANIAN JOINT MILITARY
COMMISSION MEETINGS

REF: (A) AMMAN 571, (B) AMMAN 0317, (C) 75 AMMAN 10079

1. WE ENDORSE YOUR PROPOSAL (REFTEL B) THAT OUR OFFER TO
SEND U.S. TEAM OF EXPERTS TO JORDAN TO PARTICIPATE IN A
JOINT U.S.-JAF STUDY OF JORDANIAN MILITARY MANPOWER AND
TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES BE MADE TO JAF AUTHORITIES DURING
MARCH MEETINGS OF U.S.-JORDANIAN JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION
(JMC), INSTEAD OF BEING SURFACED AND IMPLEMENTED PRIOR TO
JMC MEETINGS AS YOU SUGGESTED EARLIER (REFTEL C). BY SO
DOING WE WOULD HOPE NOT ONLY TO ELICIT BETTER GOJ RECEP-
TIVITY TO JOINT STUDY IDEA BY SURFACING IT IN LESS PRE-

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EMPTY AND MORE "SPONTANEOUS" FASHION, BUT ALSO TO PROVIDE

OPPORTUNITY FOR SENIOR U.S. AND JORDANIAN MILITARY OFFICERS TO DISCUSS AND DEVELOP MUTUALLY-AGREED CRITERIA THAT WOULD GOVERN BOTH CONDUCT OF JOINT STUDY AND OUR EVALUATION OF FUTURE JORDANIAN ARMS REQUESTS IN LIGHT OF FINDINGS LIKELY TO EMERGE FROM IT. JMC IS CLEARLY BEST FORUM IN WHICH TO ACHIEVE THIS.

2. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY YOUR SUCCESS TO DATE IN PERSUADING CINC BIN SHAKER OF NEED FOR JAF TO REVIEW ITS CURRENT AND PROJECTED CAPABILITIES PRIOR TO DISCUSSING THEM WITH U.S. REPS AT UPCOMING JMC (REFTEL A). WE HOPE THAT, AS PART OF YOUR EFFORTS TO ELICIT FURTHER JAF VIEWS RE AGENDA ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN JMC, YOU WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR TO BIN SHAKER, BRIG. ABOUD AND THEIR RESPECTIVE STAFFS: (A) OUR CONCERN OVER STRAINS ALREADY BEING PLACED ON JAF'S HUMAN AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES BY RECENT ACQUISITIONS AND PURCHASES OF ADVANCED MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AND (B) OUR EXPECTATION THAT THIS SUBJECT WILL ARISE IN CONJUNCTION WITH JAF PRESENTATION OF ITS FUTURE MODERNIZATION PLANS (INCLUDING FURTHER ACQUISITIONS OF ADVANCED WEAPONS SYSTEMS) AT UPCOMING JMC MEETINGS.

3. FYI: WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT MANY CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING U.S.-JORDANIAN MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP (E.G., FY 1976 GRANT AID TRAINING, THE HAWK/VULCAN HARDWARE PACKAGE, TRACKED ARTILLERY, REDEYE TRAINING, ETC.) WILL LARGELY BE RESOLVED BY TIME JMC MEETS AND THAT OTHER OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS CAN BE DEALT WITH BRIEFLY IN JMC CONTEXT. REMAINDER OF JMC AGENDA, AS INDICATED REFTEL C AND IN PREVIOUS EMBASSY REPORTING, PROMISES TO REVOLVE AROUND JORDANIAN DESIRE TO OBTAIN DEFINITE U.S. COMMITMENTS (INCLUDING PRICE AND DELIVERY DATES) RE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT OVER NEXT 2-3 YEARS. BASED ON INFO CONTAINED 75 AMMAN 5878 (SEPT. 3), WE EXPECT SUCH EQUIPMENT REQUESTS WILL INCLUDE FURTHER QUANTITIES OF SUCH PREVIOUSLY-SUPPLIED ITEMS AS REDEYE AND DRAGON MISSILES, CARGO AIRCRAFT, SELF-PROPELLED ARTILLERY, TANKS, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, TRUCKS AND SMALL ARMS, AS WELL AS OTHER, MORE ADVANCED HARDWARE MENTIONED 75 MAP/AMMAN 3388 (31 DEC 1359Z).

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4. WE EXPECT THAT LEVELS OF FMS CREDIT AND MAP GRANT ASSISTANCE ENVISAGED FOR JORDAN IN FY 76 AND FY 77 WOULD SUFFICE TO COVER PURCHASE OF SOME OF THE MORE ORDINARY ITEMS NOTED ABOVE. DOD--IN ANTICIPATION OF UPCOMING JMC MEETINGS--IS NOW WORKING UP TENTATIVE P&A DATA THAT WILL HELP THROW LIGHT ON FINANCING REQUIREMENTS. DURING JMC WE WILL WISH TO DISCUSS WITH GOJ THEIR BEST ESTIMATE

OF FUTURE SAUDI FUNDING AND HOW THIS SHOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO USG/GOJ SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP.

5. WITH REGARD TO EXPECTED JORDANIAN REQUESTS FOR MORE ADVANCED WEAPONS SYSTEMS, HOWEVER, WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT OUR ABILITY AT JMC TO PROVIDE COMMITMENTS THAT WOULD BE DEFINITE OR TIMELY ENOUGH TO SATISFY JAF. (EVEN IF IT WERE LOGISTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DO SO AND IF WE WERE CONFIDENT OF AVOIDING OR OVERCOMING POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES WITH CONGRESS OVER SALE OF ADDITIONAL ADVANCED WEAPONS SYSTEMS TO JAF, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE NEITHER IN OUR OWN INTEREST NOR THAT OF JORDAN TO AGREE TO SUPPLY JAF WITH AN OVER-ABUNDANCE OF ADVANCED WEAPONRY WHOSE ACQUISITION MIGHT EXCITE ISRAELI APPREHENSIONS, DRAIN ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FROM JORDAN'S LABORING ECONOMY, OVERTAX JORDANIAN MILITARY MANPOWER AND TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES, AND POSSIBLY ENTAIL SOCIAL DISLOCATIONS THAT MIGHT EVENTUALLY UNDERMINE THE COUNTRY'S INTERNAL STABILITY). WE REGARD IT AS IMPERATIVE, THEREFORE, THAT PROPOSED JOINT STUDY OF JAF CAPABILITIES TO ABSORB SUCH EQUIPMENT EFFECTIVELY BECOME THE MAJOR TOPIC TO BE ADDRESSED AT UPCOMING JMC, THAT IT BE CARRIED OUT AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE IN WEEKS FOLLOWING JMC, AND THAT DEFINITE RESPONSES--INCLUDING INFO RE PRICE AND DELIVERY DATES--TO JAF REQUESTS FOR ADVANCED WEAPONS SYSTEMS BE DEFERRED UNTIL WE HAVE DETERMINED, IN COOPERATION WITH JAF, WHETHER IT INDEED POSSESSES (OR CAN BE EXPECTED TO DEVELOP) THE ABILITY TO ABSORB SUCH SYSTEMS EFFECTIVELY.

6. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, WE ENVISAGE SENDING TEAM OF APPROXIMATELY EIGHT PERSONS, INCLUDING (A) A DOD TEAM-LEADER POSSESSING STRONG MANAGERIAL/COMMAND QUALITIES AND FAMILIARITY WITH JORDANIAN MILITARY STRUCTURE; (B)

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U.S. ARMY AND AIR FORCE SPECIALISTS IN LOGISTICAL, MANPOWER AND OTHER MILITARY SUPPORT AREAS; (C) QUALIFIED INTELLIGENCE AND ECONOMIC ANALYSTS; AND (D) A DEPARTMENT OFFICER WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE RE JORDANIAN POLITICAL SCENE. WE WOULD OF COURSE WELCOME ANY VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING TEAM'S COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE, AS WELL AS ANY ADDITIONAL IDEAS YOU MAY WISH TO SUBMIT TO HELP ENSURE SUCCESS OF THIS HIGHLY IMPORTANT INITIATIVE. END FYI. SISCO

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